

Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2023
Meeting held in person at the Niles Room in the Town Offices

Present in person: Commission Members: Ted Cooley (Chair), Bob Hedges (Vice Chair), Alternates: John Miller, Emily Bryant, and Fran Plaisted, Kevin Follensbee representing the Selectboard attended meeting

1. Meeting called to order 7:05 PM. Fran, Emily and John were seated as members.
2. Minutes: 12/21/2023 OCC meeting minutes --- Fran motioned we accept minutes and John seconded. Motion carried. 12/29/2023 minutes from OCC outing to Indian Pond Heritage Trail --- Bob recommended changes to minutes about focusing on the west end of the trail. John motion we accept as Emily seconded. Motion carried. Fran agreed to take the minutes for tonight's meeting.
3. Budget: Budget review completed with the Selectboard. January 30 is public meeting. Ted reviewed water testing program and why we changed the water testing protocol.
4. Invoices: None received.
6. Committee Reports: Reviewed potential Full Moon winter snowshoe hike locations. Agreed on Mountain View farm. Friday 2/23 and Saturday 2/24 were good dates for planning the event.
7. Orford Heritage Trail and Indian Pond discussions: Discussed status of the trail and the status of earlier-discussed potential conservation easements. Regarding the Orford Heritage Trail --- Everyone was in favor of the OCC organizing a trail work program. We agreed to develop a project plan and review with Andy Schwaegler. A foot bridge potentially needs to be built over the ravines. Regarding Indian Pond easement discussions --- Discussed the history of discussion regarding potential conservation easements around Indian Pond. Harry and Bob are to reach out to Andy Schwaegler on the potential for collaborating around a conservation easement program. Ted reviewed the process of conserving land and how we access funds from OCC. Will need to contact a conserving agency such as UVLT.
7. Hike Orford!: Bob is working on dates and finalizing the plan and calendar for the 2024 weekend hiking program. He will finalize the results for the February Meeting.
8. Recruiting: Need to keep up our recruiting efforts.
9. Annual Report: Reviewed the OCC Annual Report to be included in the Town Annual Report. John motion we approved the draft report as amended. Bob seconded. Motion carried.
10. Cloughbrook Bog: John sent a second request for examining the water height in Cloughbrook Bog. No response from DOT.
11. Birding: Look at how to avoid early mowing and how this impacts the meadowlark and other ground nesting birds.
12. Next meeting: 2/15/2024.

Motion (John/Bob): to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Minutes taken by Fran Plaisted

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